



FRONT BURNER

HOUSE RULES

Athletic status has its perks, and its obligations.

When center John Reagan returned to Syracuse University for football practice this August, he found new turf and scoreboards inside the Carrier Dome and, most notably, a clear set of rules for dealing with inappropriate behavior outside the Dome.

The athletic department has a new code of conduct for its student-athletes.

"We had heard about it through the grapevine last spring and had anticipated some of the things that were in it," says Reagan, a team captain. "But I don't know if we had expected the severity of some of the things in it."

The big change isn't that department officials have increased their expectations of student-athletes, it's that one document now contains all department policies on issues ranging from sportsmanship to use of alcohol.

The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct also contains the can't-miss message that being a student-athlete at Syracuse University is to be considered a privilege. And with that unique status comes responsibility—student-athletes will be held to higher standards of ethical conduct and behavior than the general student population. No assumptions. No innuendos. It's all there in black and white.

"We realize we have some benefits," says Reagan. "But there are already so many restrictions placed on us, this just adds to it."

There are good reasons for such restrictions. During the last 10 years, newspaper headlines across the nation have decried the improprieties of

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—FROM THE STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

America's college athletes. In the late eighties, a University of Oklahoma quarterback was convicted of selling cocaine and more than 20 University of Colorado football players were arrested for crimes ranging from trespassing to serial rape. And at Syracuse last January, a barroom brawl between basketball players and other patrons ended with the smashing of the bar manager's car windshield.

Public reaction to these incidents, at least in the Syracuse community, was one of outrage. Can't the University control its student-athletes? The question isn't so simple, because it probably ought to be *should* the University control its student-athletes? Is it proper to place demands—and punishments—on their behavior beyond what is expect-

ed of the general student body? At Syracuse, with the adoption of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct, the answer is a resounding yes.

"Student-athletes have a unique stature on campus and in the community," says David Bennett, professor of history and chair of the Faculty Oversight Committee, a group that helped create the code of conduct and oversees athletic department personnel and rules compliance.

"Although the student-athletes may not always wish the responsibility, they are viewed as representatives of the athletic department and the University. They may be recognized by people they don't know. Their behavior becomes public knowledge. To the extent that they conduct themselves unacceptably—and by identification as SU athletes discredit the institution—they must be held accountable."

In other words, if a player is enjoying a night out with friends, finds himself heckled for poor performance in a game, loses his cool, and responds with a punch, he's in trouble. He would have been in trouble last year, too. The difference is, there are now specific athletic department sanctions. For example, a player charged with a felony would automatically be suspended for 10 percent of the team's contests.

"It takes the onus off the coaches" in terms of doling out punishment, says Athletic Director Jake Crouthamel. "Coaches are still responsible for developing their own team rules [such as penalties for missing practice, etc.], but expectations and enforcement of larger matters are handled by the athletic department."

"It reminds everyone of the importance of leadership," says Chancellor Kenneth A. Shaw. "Students who compete on the intercollegiate level are leaders by virtue of their role as representatives of the University. Having a clear understanding of the guidelines for appropriate conduct is essential."

The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct was developed and implemented at the request of Shaw, who asked Crouthamel to review University policies regarding student-athletes. The request came, at least in part, over community concern about the discipline of athletes following the fight and vandalism last January.

In his research, Crouthamel reviewed the policies of 35 other colleges and universities with high-caliber athletic programs and reputations for academic integrity and NCAA compliance. From that evolved the revised code.

The previous SU athletic department policies, says Crouthamel, were similar to those of the typical Division I-A school. SU's new code, says Chancellor Shaw, goes much further.

"We have taken a leadership role by establishing one of the clearest, most formalized codes of conduct in the nation," says Chancellor Shaw.

The coaches say the code is only a formalization of expectations they already had for their players. "Our job is to make sure the kids understand the policies and the consequences," says football coach Paul Pasqualoni. "That's our job. I've always thought that was our job."

Basketball coach Jim Boeheim agrees: "For the most part, this just puts the policies we already had in writing and in one place."

As for the athletes, some of them may be grumbling, but they're also realistic about the situation.

"Some people are pretty upset about it, and I can understand that. They wish we'd been consulted," says Reagan. "Speaking on behalf of the football team, a lot of what's in the code were our team policies anyway, whether spoken or unspoken. We've done a good job of representing Syracuse University in the past and we will carry on."

—RENÉE GEARHART LEVY

HEAD LINES

- **Maxwell signs agreement with China.** The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs has signed an agreement with the National School of Administration in Beijing, China, to develop a curriculum to train senior- and mid-level Chinese government officials in modern public administration.

The historic agreement makes SU the only American university to maintain a partnership with the Chinese government. The Maxwell School will concentrate on four main areas: developing and organizing public administration education and training programs; training China's National School of Administration's faculty in the design and delivery of a public administration curriculum; organizing an executive training program at the Maxwell School for senior-level Chinese officials; and assigning Maxwell faculty to deliver public administration courses and lectures at the school's facilities in Beijing.

- **Public Administration program ranked first.** In the latest Gourman Report, which ranks graduate and professional programs in American and international universities, the Maxwell School's graduate program in public administration was ranked first, ahead of such schools as Harvard, Princeton, and Michigan.



- **Smith to direct the Institute for Sensory Research.** Robert L. Smith, professor of bioengineering and neuroscience, was recently appointed director of the University's Institute for Sensory Research. Smith will replace Ronald Verrillo, who served as director since 1984 and stepped down to return to research and teaching. Smith, a specialist in auditory neurophysiology, has taught at SU since 1971.
- **Driscoll named Distinguished Professor.** Charles T. Driscoll has been honored as Distinguished Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering for his contributions to both the University and scientific community. His ground-breaking research on acid rain has brought him recognition as one of the nation's top environmental chemists.
- **New DIPA Program.** To help students understand the extensive changes planned in the United States' health-care system, the Division of International Programs Abroad is offering a new summer program, Comparative Health Policy: Europe and the United States. Samuel Gorovitz, professor of philosophy and former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will direct the traveling seminar that takes students to London, Oslo, Geneva, and New York City.